

# Our Epic Flight Begins January 2nd!

On Jan 2nd two high-performance experimental aircraft will depart Kelowna's YLW Airport on a 20,000 mile flight around the Americas to raise at least \$500,000 for Hope Air. Hope Air is an iconic charity which provides free medical flights to financially challenged Canadians who must get to healthcare far from home. Last year Hope Air provided 11,500 flights - from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island, and everywhere in between. Over 1,400 of these were from YLW alone.

This innovative flying project will fund at least 2,000 free medical flights in 2018. The project warrants national coverage because it is a national story about a high profile mission for an organization which serves less fortunate Canadians from coast to coast.

There is plenty of information about this exceptional project on [www.givehopewings.ca](http://www.givehopewings.ca) - but here are a few of the key messages.

- 3 retired Canadian businessmen flying for two months in two aircraft to raise awareness - and money - for Hope Air. Pilots are from British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Ontario.
- Raising enough money to fund 2000 free medical flights for Canadians.
- 60 days - 50 flights - 20 countries - 20,000 miles.
- Dr Roberta Bondar, Canada's first female astronaut, is Patron of Give Hope Wings.
- Highly visible launch from YLW 09:00 am January 2nd will include a 5-plane formation take-off followed by a low formation pass over the airport as the two Give Hope Wings aircraft are accompanied by three local aircraft who will escort the flight out of Kelowna airspace before breaking off - a great visual film opportunity.
- There are other video and excellent still photos available to the Press. See below.
- The fourth seat in the two aircraft is being occupied by six separate "Volunteer Flight Crew" pilot/passengers - individual supporters who've each made a substantial donation to Hope Air in order to share in this great adventure while giving back to less fortunate Canadians. (These people are a story in and of themselves!)
- There are still a couple of empty slots available, see <http://givehopewings.ca/volunteer-flight-crew>

The 2 minute video below summarizes the Give Hope Wings project in a visual way. It also appears on the home page of the website. More footage available on request. <http://givehopewings.ca/images/videos/GiveHopeWings-01-main>.

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[www.givehopewings.ca](http://www.givehopewings.ca)  
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## Launch Ceremonies - Give Hope Wings

January 2, 2018

Hangar A9 - Kelowna T-Hangars  
5805 Airport Way, Kelowna

- 8:30 a.m:** Hangar 9 doors open
- 9:00 a.m:** Coffee served
- 9:30 a.m:** Welcome by Crew & Dignitaries
- 9:50 a.m:** Aircraft pushback
- 9:55 a.m:** Drone liftoff
- 10:00 a.m:** Expedition launches - Give Hope Wings aircraft in formation with 3 other aircraft + video drone

Launch sponsored by



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